

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-02

H-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 SAM-01 ARA-06 /070 W

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R 231000Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1636

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HAMILTON

AMCONSUL ST JOHN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, SP, UK, CA

SUBJ: IBERIA SEEKING TO EXPAND FLIGHTS TO CUBA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IBERIA REPS HAVE STATED THEIR AIRLINE SEEKING TO INCREASE SERVICE TO HAVANA, AND EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING REFUELING STOP AT GANDER WITH BERMUDA AS ALTERNATE IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER. END SUMMARY.

2. IBERIA NOW OPERATES ONE MADRID-HAVANA FLIGHT PER WEEK WHICH MAKES TECHNICAL STOP IN CANARY ISLANDS AND TOUCHES N O OTHER POINTS. ITS PUBLISHED SCHEDULES FOR APRIL 1 TO OCTOBER 31, 1975, HOWEVER, INDICATE SECOND WEEKLY FLIGHT TO OPERATE THERE FROM JUNE 30 TO AUGUST 31 ONLY.

3. IBERIA OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBOFF THAT IBERIA GROUP HEADED BY SALES VICE PRESIDENT ARTO DUE TO LEAVE MADRID FOR HAVANA APR 23 FOR DISCUSSIONS WHICH THEY HOPE WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF COVERAGE OF CUBA-SPAIN MARKET BY BOTH
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IBERIA AND CUBANA, THE CUBAN AIRLINE. HE SAID IBERIA GOAL

WAS HAVE BOTH AIRLINES INCREASE COVERAGE FROM ONE TO TWO WEEKLY FLIGHTSS HAVANA-MADRID. ON THE OTHER HAND,IBERIA APPEARS TO FEEL SOME URGENCY IN MAKING ARRANGEMET WITH CUBANS BECAUSE IT UNDERSTANDS THAT LUFTANSA AND AIR FRANCE ALSO SEEKING HAVANA ROUTES.

4. IBERIA OFFICIAL NOTED HIS AIRLINE VIRTUALLY ONELY ONE NOW SERVING CUBA FROM EUROPE. BUSINESS, ESPECAILLY CARGO, HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY BRISK. ITS INTEREST IN GANDER OR BERMUDA STOP DERIVES FROM IBERIA ESTIMATES THAT THE DC-8-63 AIRCRAFT PRESENTLY USED ON THE HAVANA ROUTE COULD CARRY UP TO 56,000 POUNDS OF CARGO IF THEY COULD STOP AT GANDER. THEY CARRY 42,000 ON ROUTE WITH REFUELING IN CANARIES. GREATER LOAD ON ROUTE THROUGH GANDER WOULD BE MADE POSSIBLE BY LIGHTER FUEL LOAD REQUIRED BY SHORTER DISTANCES BETWEEN STOPS.

5. EMBASSY IBERIA SOURCE STATED POSSIBILITY FUEL STOPS GANDER OR BERMUDA DISCUSSED FORMALLY ONLY BETWEEN AIR MINISTRY AND AIRLINE. EVIDENTLY SPANISH FOREIGN MINPAIRY NOT YET REQUESTED APPROACH BRITISH OR CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR GANDER OR BERMUDA STOPS. STABLER

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